only have been provided by such a race as the Normans; their experience of the latter, when from hired swordsmen they became their masters, was nothing new in the story of nations.

The power of the Lombard princes seemed to be on the increase now after two centuries of confusion. It was much that hereditary succession more or less complete was secured. It was in their favour that feudalism so far had not established itself. The reins of central government showed signs of being tightened; the *gastalds* who governed definite districts called from their office, the *sculdais* again below them, come to be subordinated from the ninth century to new officials, counts (or *comites),* whose titles, though they sometimes became hereditary, were always a gift from the prince. Large revenues were derived from the ducal domains, from the regalia, and from other sources, such as tributes from the subjects, called *angaria.* Compulsory military service provided the prince with a militia of townsmen. Every token of sovereignty surrounded the ruler of Benevento, Capua, or Salerno: the coinage that bore his effigy; the assumption of sceptre and crown; the issue of sovereign acts in his name.

The centralised administration of the Basileus,
the pomp and ceremony of his court, were the
models for these small Lombard potentates, whose
taris, rude imitations of the imperial *besants,*
show the Duke of Benevento or Salerno clad in
alb and dalmatic, carrying the globe and cross,